

CONFIDENTIAL

PTQ2573

RELEASED IN PART  
B1, 1.4(D)PAGE 01 CARACA 03852 01 OF 02 032308Z  
ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	CEA-01	CIAE-00	CTME-00	DINT-00
	DODE-00	DOFE-00	PERC-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	EXIM-01
	E-00	FAAE-00	VC-00	FRB-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00
	ITC-01	LAB-01	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01	DCP-01	NSAE-00
	NSCE-00	OES-00	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00
	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	IRM-00	SSO-00	STR-00	TRSE-00
	USIE-00	EPAE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-02	G-00
	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/011W				

-----123982 032309Z /38

P 032212Z DEC 02  
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8807  
INFO OPEC COLLECTIVE  
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY LIMA  
AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN  
AMEMBASSY QUITO  
DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC  
DEPT OF ENERGY WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CARACAS 003852

ENERGY FOR DAVID PUMPHREY AND ANDREA LOCKWOOD

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CARACA 03852 01 OF 02 032308Z  
E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/01/2012  
TAGS: EPET, PGOV, ECON, VE  
SUBJECT: PDVSA ON DAY TWO OF THE GENERAL STRIKE

REF: A. CARACAS 3830  
B. CARACAS 3850

CLASSIFIED BY: AMBASSADOR CHARLES S. SHAPIRO, REASONS 1.5 (B) AND (D)

-----  
SUMMARY  
-----

1. (C) THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT STATES THAT OIL PRODUCTION

UNCLASSIFIED

FACILITIES CONTINUE TO BE SHORT-STAFFED (BUT WITH MORE WORKERS SHOWING UP ON DECEMBER 3 THAN DECEMBER 2), AND MAJOR OIL OPERATIONS HAVE NOT BEEN INTERRUPTED. EVIDENCE IS THAT CONTINGENCY PLANNING HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL SO FAR. VIOLENCE ASSOCIATED WITH THE PDVSA STRIKE, HOWEVER, IS ON THE INCREASE. A MEETING CALLED BY STRIKING PDVSA WORKERS AT MID-DAY DECEMBER 3 WAS BROKEN UP BY THE NATIONAL GUARD USING TEAR GAS AND RUBBER BULLETS. RUMORS ARE STILL RIFE ABOUT ACTIONS PLANNED BY UNION MEMBERS AND/OR PDVSA EMPLOYEES TO DISRUPT OR SLOW OIL OPERATIONS. THE MOST SERIOUS OF THESE IS A POSSIBLE STRIKE ON THE PART OF HARBOR PILOTS. END SUMMARY.

-----  
WHO IS AT WORK?  
-----

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CARACA 03852 01 OF 02 032308Z

2. (C) PETROLEOS DE VENEZUELA (PDVSA) [REDACTED]

B1

[REDACTED] TOLD ECONOFF THAT WHILE ONLY 60 PERCENT OF ALL PDVSA EMPLOYEES WORKED ON DECEMBER 2, 70-75 PERCENT ARE ON THE JOB ON DECEMBER 3. LABOR MINISTER IGLESIAS, IN A TELEVISED NEWS CONFERENCE, CLAIMED THAT 82 PERCENT OF OIL WORKERS ARE ON THE JOB. A PDVSA OPPOSITION ACTIVIST CLAIMED TO ECONOFF THAT THE NATIONWIDE AVERAGE IN OPERATIONAL AREAS IS ABOUT 50 PERCENT WITH MUCH HIGHER NUMBERS OF ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYEES ON STRIKE.

3. (C) [REDACTED] CONFIRMED THAT PDVSA,S CONTINGENCY PLAN IS IN EFFECT FOR THE ENTIRE NATION. HE ALSO UNDERLINED THAT EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION AND REFINING ARE OPERATING NORMALLY. [REDACTED] ADDED THAT CONTINGENCY PLANS HAVE BEEN INVOKED TO ENSURE THE DISTRIBUTION AND SUPPLY OF GASOLINE AND OTHER PRODUCTS TO THE DOMESTIC MARKET. [REDACTED]

B1

B1

B1

[REDACTED] SUBSEQUENTLY CONFIRMED TO ECONOFF THAT SERVICE STATIONS IN MARACAIBO HAD RUN OUT OF UNLEADED GASOLINE ON DECEMBER 2. THE MILITARY DELIVERED THE FUEL THE NIGHT OF DECEMBER 2. [REDACTED] ALSO CONFIRMED THAT THE NORMAL DISPATCH OF FUEL OUT OF THE BAJO GRANDE REFINERY IN MARACAIBO HAD BEEN REACTIVATED UNDER THE CONTINGENCY PLAN. SPEAKING PUBLICLY ON DECEMBER 2, PDVSA PRESIDENT ALI RODRIGUEZ SAID THAT VENEZUELA HAS ENOUGH INVENTORY TO CONTINUE OIL SHIPMENTS FOR 10 DAYS IN THE EVENT THAT PRODUCTION IS DISRUPTED.

B1

-----  
VIOLENCE ASSOCIATED WITH PDVSA STRIKE INCREASING  
-----

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED  
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04            CARACA   03852   01 OF 02   032308Z

4. (C) A MASS MEETING CALLED BY THE PDVSA OPPOSITION IN CHUAO AT MID-DAY DECEMBER 3 WAS BROKEN UP BY THE NATIONAL GUARD USING APC,S TO LAUNCH TEAR GAS AND RUBBER BULLETS (SEE REF B). THE DECEMBER 3 MEETING HAS BEEN CALLED BECAUSE OF THE DECEMBER 2 ARREST OF THE EL PALITO REFINERY,S HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER AS WELL AS THE OVERNIGHT BREAK-IN AT THE HOME OF A LEADING PDVSA ACTIVIST. ACCORDING TO A PDVSA EXECUTIVE WHO WAS SUMMONED TO FERNANDEZ,S HOME AT ABOUT 4:30 AM, FERNANDEZ WAS AWOKEN AT THE GUN POINT AT APPROXIMATELY 2:30 AM. HE AND HIS 19-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER WERE BOUND AND LEFT ON THE FLOOR WHILE SIX ARMED MEN SEARCHED THE HOUSE. HIS CELLPHONE AND BEEPER (BOTH OF WHICH CONTAIN OPPOSITION-RELATED CONTACT INFORMATION) WERE STOLEN (AMONGST OTHER THINGS) AND HE REPORTEDLY RECEIVED A DEATH THREAT.

-----  
OTHER RUMORS  
-----

5. (C) THERE ARE MANY RUMORS CIRCULATING OF PLANNED ACTIONS BY UNION MEMBERS AGAINST MAJOR OIL FACILITIES. ALL MUST BE TAKEN WITH SOME SKEPTICISM BUT THEY ARE EVOCATIVE, AT LEAST, OF THE STATE OF MIND PREVAILING AS VENEZUELA'S LEADING

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL            PTQ2575

PAGE 01            CARACA   03852   02 OF 02   032309Z  
ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	CEA-01	CIAE-00	CTME-00	DINT-00
	DODE-00	DOTE-00	PERC-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	EXIM-01
	E-00	FAAE-00	VC-00	FRB-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00
	IO-00	ITC-01	LAB-01	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01	DCP-01
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OES-00	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00
	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	IRM-00	SSO-00	STR-00
	TRSE-00	USIE-00	EPAE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-02
	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/011W			

-----12398C   032309Z /38

P 032212Z DEC 02  
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8808  
INFO OPEC COLLECTIVE  
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY LIMA  
AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN  
AMEMBASSY QUITO  
DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC  
DEPT OF ENERGY WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 CARACAS 003852

ENERGY FOR DAVID PUMPHREY AND ANDREA LOCKWOOD

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CARACA 03852 02 OF 02 032309Z  
E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/01/2012  
TAGS: EPET, PGOV, ECON, VE  
SUBJECT: PDVSA ON DAY TWO OF THE GENERAL STRIKE

INDUSTRY IS BUFFETED BY POLITICAL UNREST. AN EXECUTIVE OF  
[REDACTED] A LONG TERM PLAYER IN THE [REDACTED]

B1

[REDACTED] BUSINESS IN VENEZUELA, CALLED ECONOFF THE NIGHT OF  
DECEMBER 2 WITH THE INFORMATION THAT FEDEPETROL UNION MEMBERS  
WERE PLANNING TO TRY TO BLOCK ACCESS TO THE JOSE INDUSTRIAL  
COMPLEX ON DECEMBER 3. ALTHOUGH NO ACTION WAS TAKEN, HE  
REPORTED THE AFTERNOON OF DECEMBER 3 THAT FEDEPETROL SAYS  
THIS IS STILL A POSSIBILITY. HE ALSO REPORTED ON DECEMBER 3  
THAT CTV-AFFILIATED UNION MEMBERS WERE STARTING TO BLOCK  
ROADS TO THE OIL FIELDS IN MATURIN.

6. (C) ANOTHER RUMOR WHICH CIRCULATED THE NIGHT OF DECEMBER  
2, IS THAT UNION MEMBERS AND FISHERMEN WOULD SEEK TO BLOCK  
THE LAKE MARACAIBO SHIPPING CHANNEL. [REDACTED]

B1

[REDACTED] INFORMED ECONOFF THAT  
THE NAVY HAS BEEN PATROLLING THE CHANNEL AND THAT THE ATTEMPT  
TO BLOCK IT HAD BEEN CALLED OFF OUT OF FEAR THAT THE VESSELS  
WOULD BE FIRED UPON. A PDVSA EMPLOYEE CALLING FROM  
MARACAIBO, HOWEVER, INFORMED ECONOFF THAT THE ATTEMPT WILL BE  
MADE THE NIGHT OF DECEMBER 3. UNION RADIO OF CARACAS REPORTS  
THAT A PIPE BOMB THROWN FROM A PASSING CAR DID MINOR DAMAGE  
AT PDVSA,S LA CAMPINA HEADQUARTERS THE NIGHT OF DECEMBER 2  
(THIS REPORT REMAINS UNCONFIRMED ELSEWHERE). THERE ARE OTHER  
REPORTS THAT OPPOSITION ACTIVISTS WITHIN PDVSA HAVE BEEN  
THREATENED.

-----  
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CARACA 03852 02 OF 02 032309Z  
PORTS

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

-----  
7. (C) [REDACTED]

B1

[REDACTED] CALLED ECONOFF AT 3:30 PM WITH THE FOLLOWING INVENTORY OF VESSELS LOADING AT VENEZUELAN PORTS. ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] AN UNUSUAL NUMBER OF VESSELS ARE ANCHORED AWAITING LOADING OR OTHER INSTRUCTIONS FROM CARACAS. [REDACTED] ALSO CONFIRMED THAT THE HARBOR PILOTS UNION IS STILL CONSIDERING A STRIKE.

B1

B1

8. (C) VESSELS IN VENEZUELAN PORTS:

LAKE MARACAIBO, BAJO GRANDE ) ONE SHIP IS CURRENTLY DISCHARGING AND AWAITING INSTRUCTIONS FROM CARACAS BEFORE LOADING;  
LAKE MARACAIBO, LAS SALINAS ) TWO VESSELS ARE LOADING; ONE WITH BUNKER FUEL AND THE OTHER WITH CRUDE;  
PUERTO LA CRUZ ) ONE VESSEL IS LOADED AND AWAITING DOCUMENTATION; THREE VESSELS ARE ANCHORED IN THE BAY AWAITING PAPERWORK FROM CARACAS;  
JOSE ) ONE VESSEL LOADING; SCHEDULED TO SAIL 6:00 PM DECEMBER 4;  
AT THE JOSE STORAGE TERMINAL, TWO VESSELS ARE AT ANCHOR. THREE LPG TANKERS ARE REPORTED TO BE ANCHORED IN THE BAY, ALSO AWAITING DOCUMENTATION;  
JOSE, BITOR ) A VESSEL IS PROGRAMMED TO COME INTO PORT TOMORROW;  
MARGUARITA ) ONE VESSEL IS DISCHARGING PRODUCT;  
PARAGUANA ) TWO VESSELS AT THE TERMINAL; ONE LOADING AND ONE OFF-LOADING.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 CARACA 03852 02 OF 02 032309Z

-----  
COMMENT  
-----

9. (C) SO FAR, [REDACTED] GOV CONTINGENCY PLANNING WHICH SEEMS TO HAVE HEADED OFF ANY MAJOR PROBLEMS IN PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION FOR NOW. PDVSA OPPOSITION ACTIVISTS, HOWEVER, ALLEGE THAT REFINERIES SUCH AS EL PALITO AND PUERTO LA CRUZ ARE CLOSE TO BEING SHUT DOWN BECAUSE OF SHORT-STAFFING AND EXHAUSTION. THE EVENTS IN CHUAO THIS AFTERNOON MAY FORCE THIS STAND-OFF TO A MORE SERIOUS LEVEL.

B1

SHAPIRO

CONFIDENTIAL

UNCLASSIFIED

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED